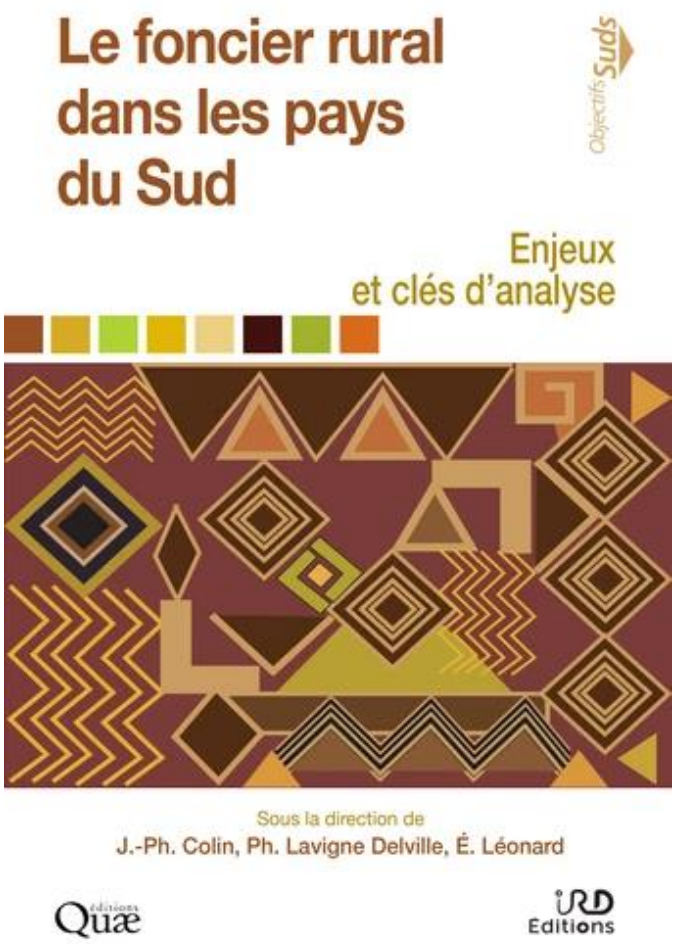
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Publication: Rural Land in the Global South: Issues and Analytical Frameworks.

Structure : IRD (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development)



INTRODUCTION

In the Global South, access to land and its resources, as well as control over and use of the land, are critical issues. At the heart of the challenges of state-building, agricultural development, food security, and environmental sustainability, land tenure is also a marker of

identity and a recurring source of conflict.

Over the past twenty years, extensive research has advanced our understanding of these issues. Adopting a process-oriented and multidisciplinary approach, this book provides an overview of rural land dynamics in the Global South. Drawing on a rich international bibliography, it addresses key themes related to land issues: ranging from local practices and dynamics (evolution of land rights, land markets, conflicts...) to public policies (agrarian reforms, land rights formalization programs), including methodological challenges and land expertise. Each chapter fosters a critical dialogue between research questions, analytical frameworks, and research findings.

An unparalleled work on the subject, this book serves as a reference tool for all those—students, researchers, or development practitioners—who wish to deepen their understanding of land dynamics in contemporary rural societies.

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Publisher: IRD Editions

Series: Objectifs Suds

Publication Date: January 5, 2023

Liens

https://www.editions.ird.fr/produit/667/9782709928779/le-foncier-rural-dans-les-pays-du-sud

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